

REMARKS

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing the subject matter of claim 30. Claim 30 recites, among other things, that the inner contour of the partial shells has a plurality of peg-like projections. Applicant respectfully traverses the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), however, to eliminate this issue the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the specification is amended to recite, among other things, that the concentric ridges 16 shown in Fig. 4 may also be ridges running in the manner of a thread or may be peg-like or knob-like projections distributed evenly over the inner contours of partial shells 1a and 1b.

Support for the amendment to the specification is found, among other places, in originally filed claim 13 and the originally filed specification. Based on the forgoing, applicant respectfully requests admission of the amendment to the specification and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a)

The Office Action suggested guidelines for Applicant's use that illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. Applicant has studied the guidelines and the file history of the above application and notes that a PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT was filed with the application papers. The PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT amended the specification adding selected ones of the section headings listed in the guidelines provided in the Office Action. Applicant further notes that the amendment to the ABSTRACT is printed in published patent application Pub. No.: US 2006/0130287 but the section headings were not.

Applicant requests that the amendments to the specification made in the PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT be made to the specification. Applicant requests that he be notified if any action has to be taken on his part.

Claims 20-38 are in the instant application, of which claims 20, 21, 23, 31 and 36 are amended to more positively set forth Applicant's patentably novel coupling for a spiral wire flexible hose. Claim 39 is added to set forth Applicant's patentably novel coupling in varying scope. Claim 36 was indicated allowable. Although claim 36 was indicated allowable, Applicant notes that on page 6, section 12, claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami in view of Loker; however, the basis for the rejection is not given. Based on the forgoing, applicant is proceeding with the understanding

that claim 36 is not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami in view of Loker.

Regarding claim 36, the Office Action stated that claim 36 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 36, which is dependent on claim 21, which is dependent on independent claim 20, is amended to include all of the limitations of claims 20 and 21 and to overcome the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph.

Support for the amendments to claim 36 is found, among other places, in the pending claims. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests admission of the amendments to, consideration of, and allowance of, claim 36.

Claims 21, 23, 31 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 21, 23, 31 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, however, to eliminate this issue, the following action is taken.

Regarding claim 21, the Office Action alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the clamping lever" and the "free circumferential end." Claim 21 is amended to provide the antecedent basis for "the clamping lever" and the "free circumferential end."

Regarding claim 23, the Office Action alleges that it is unclear how the ring clamp can be a unitary piece when claim 1 recites that the ring clamp includes at least two partial shells. Claim 23 is amended to recite, among other things, that the at least two partial shells of the ring clamp are attached to each other.

Regarding claim 31, the Office action alleges that there is insufficient basis for the limitation "the ridges". Claim 31 is amended to provide an antecedent basis for the limitation "the ridges."

Regarding claim 35, the Office action alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the clamping device." Claim 35 is dependent on claim 21 which was amended to introduce the limitation "the clamping device."

Support for the amendments to claims 20, 21, 23, and 31 is found, among other places, in the pending claims and in the drawings. Based on the foregoing, Applicant

respectfully requests admission of the amendments to claims 21, 23 and 31; consideration of claims 21, 23, 31, and 35, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21, 23, 31 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 20, 24, 26, 28-29, 31-34 and 37-38 are rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by Ikegami et al U.S. Patent No. 6,659,510B1 (hereinafter also referred to as "Ikegami"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 20, 24, 26, 28-29, 31-34 and 37-38 under 102(e) as being anticipated by Ikegami. However, to eliminate this issue, claim 20 on which claims 24, 26, 28-29, 31-34 and 37-38 are dependent is amended. Amended claim 20 recites a coupling for a spiral wire flexible hose having, among other things:

a ring clamp configured as a clamping jaw and including at least two partial shells enclosing a sleeve of the spiral wire flexible hose, wherein the ring clamp has an inner contour having a spiral to receive a spiral wire flexible hose in a positive locking engagement, wherein the hose is adapted to receive a spout therein, wherein the spiral has a variable pitch and extends up to a protrusion situated at the end of the ring clamp, whereby the spout is clamped such that the spout is axially immovable.

Support for the amendment to claim 20 is found, among other places, on page 2, lines 9-19 of the specification. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests admission and consideration of claim 20. Applicant respectfully submits that Ikegami does not disclose a coupling for a spiral wire flexible hose having a spiral having a variable pitch to receive hoses having a different pitch. Since Ikegami fails to teach this feature of Applicant's claim 20, Ikegami can not anticipate the subject matter of claim 20.

Regarding claims 28 and 29, the Office Action alleges that the inner contour of the partial shells of Ikegami has interspaced ridges 24. Applicant respectfully submits that the numeral 24 of Ikegami is the spiral protruding portion shown in Fig. 1, and discussed in column 4, lines 16-24, of Ikegami and is not Applicant's concentric ridges 16 shown in Fig. 4b, discussed in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the specification, and recited in claims 28 and 29.

Claims 37 and 38 are dependent on claims 29 and 28, respectively, and the argument put forth to show that Ikegami does not anticipate claims 28 and 29 is applicable, among others, to show that Ikegami does not anticipate claims 37 and 38.

Based on the foregoing Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20, 24, 26, 28-29, 31-34 and 37-38 under 102(e) as being anticipated by Ikegami and requests allowance of claims 20, 24, 26, 28-29, 31-34 and 37-38.

Claims 21 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami in view of Loker U.S. Patent No. 4,593,942 (hereinafter also referred to as "Loker"). Claims 21 and 35 are dependent on claim 20. Claim 20 and Ikegami were discussed above.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 21 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami in view of Loker. However, to reduce the issues, claim 21 is amended. More particularly, amended claim 21 recites, among other things, that a clamping lever is attached to free circumferential end of one of the partial shells via a bolt. A recoil spring has one end connected to the clamping lever and has an opposite free end wherein with the free end of the recoil spring connected to the other free circumferential end of the corresponding partial shell, a non-positive locking engagement is provided between the steel wound sleeve and the ring clamp.

Applicant has discussed above that Ikegami does not teach a coupling for a spiral wire flexible hose recited in Claim 20 having, among other things, a spiral having a variable pitch to receive hoses having a different pitch. Applicant respectfully submits that Loker does not cure the defects of Ikegami and therefore combining Ikegami and Loker would not teach the subject matter of claims 20, 21 and 35. Further, claim 21 recites that a recoil spring has one end pivotally mounted to a clamping lever and has an opposite free end, wherein with the free end of the recoil spring connected to the other free circumferential end of the corresponding partial shell, a non-positive locking engagement is provided between the steel wound sleeve and the ring clamp. The Office Action directs Applicant to Figs. 2 and 3 of Loker. Applicant respectfully submits that the bolt in Fig. 3 and the strap 103 in Fig. 3 of Loker are not a disclosure of having one end of a recoil spring pivotally mounted to a lever as recited in claim 21.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami in view of Loker, and requests allowance of claims 21 and 35.

Claims 22, 23, 25, 27 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 22, 23, 25, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami and requests

reconsideration thereof. Claims 22, 23, 25, 27 and 30 are dependent on claim 20. Claim 20 and Ikegami were discussed above. In the above discussion, Applicant showed that Ikegami did not disclose the subject matter of claim 20. The discussion, among others, is applicable to show that Ikegami does not disclose the subject matter of Applicant's claims 22, 23, 25, 27 and 30.

Based on the forgoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22, 23, 25, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami and requests allowance of claims 22, 23, 25, 27 and 30.

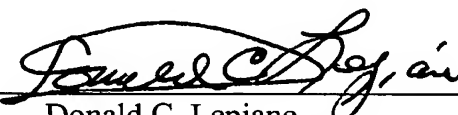
Applicant has added new claim 39. Support for new claim 39 is found, among other places, in Fig. 5. Claim 39 is dependent on claim 21, which is dependent on claim 20. The arguments put forth to patentably distinguish claims 20 and 21 over the prior art are applicable, among others, to patentably distinguish claim 39 over similar art.

Based on the forgoing, Applicant respectfully requests admission, consideration and allowance of claim 39.

This amendment represents a sincere effort to place this application in condition for allowance. In the event issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to discuss those issues before further action is taken in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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